

Ancient Philosophy Philosophy 201

Spring 2012

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Office Hours: 8:00-9:00 & 11:00-11:30 TTh

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Texts

Required:

Wallace Matson, *A New History of Philosophy, Volume One: From Thales to Ockham*, 2nd edition, Harcourt Brace, 2000.

Forrest E. Baird and Walter Kaufmann, (eds), *Ancient Philosophy*, 6th edition, Prentice Hall, 2011.

Recommended:

Leemon McHenry and Takashi Yagisawa, *Reflections on Philosophy: Introductory Essays*, 3rd edition, University Readers, 2010. (See especially, Chapter 3 "Metaphysics" for Plato and Aristotle.)

Course Description

This course satisfies the "Philosophy and Religion" (C-3) section of the General Education Program. Courses in this section are designed to promote critical reflection on questions concerning the nature, meaning, and value of human existence, the world in which we live, and our relations with one another. Students should understand the sources and limits of knowledge, and they should appreciate and be able to assess different world views and moral teachings that have played central roles in human culture.

More specifically, this course is designed as a critical evaluation of classical philosophy with a focus on the metaphysic and epistemology of the Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. We will also examine the historical situation that led to the rise of philosophy in ancient Greece, the role of the sophists in democratic Athens in the 5th century B. C. and the influence of the Peloponnesian War on Plato's *Republic*.

Course Requirements

1. Two Exams @ 30% each 60%
Exams contain multiple choice questions, short answers and essay questions. Study questions for review will be given to students prior to the exams.

2. Quizzes 30%
There will be approximately 6 quizzes. The lowest grade will be dropped.

3. Participation/Attendance/Punctuality10%
Attendance and punctuality will be noted at each class session. Participation will be judged on the basis of your willingness to take an active role in the course, e.g., response to questions, group dynamics, and overall class involvement.

Grading Standards:

Final %	92	90-91.9	88-89.9	82-87.9	80-81.9	78-79.9	72-77.9	70-71.9	68-69.9	62-67.9	60-61.9	59
Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability, please identify yourself to me and to the University so that we can reasonably accommodate your learning and the preparation and evaluation of the work that you must do for this course. Please contact the Center on Disabilities, Student Services Building, Room 110, 818.677.2684 (fax: 818.677.4932; email: sdr@csun.edu). For more information, visit the COD's website at the following address: <http://www.csun.edu/cod>.

Class Etiquette and Policies

There are no shortcuts to learning philosophy. The subject demands that students learn in the old-fashioned manner of time-consuming and disciplined study. This means you must spend time reading the classic texts of philosophy (and secondary sources), devote your attention to lectures and involve yourself in critical discussion of the material covered.

Violations to the course policies, especially when they result in a disruption to the class, will result in penalties to the student's participation grade.

1. Attendance is necessary to do well in the course. If you must miss class for any reason, you are responsible for making up any work missed. Find out before coming to class what you missed and make sure you are prepared for the session. Excessive absence will significantly lower your grade and normally results in failure.

2. Attendance alone is not sufficient for passing the class. Prepare for each class carefully and take an active role in discussions. As a general rule, you should spend two hours preparing for each hour spent in class.

3. Punctuality is a requirement, not an option. You are expected to be seated and ready for class at the time that class begins. Once the class session begins and you arrive late, you will be considered late and points will be deducted from your participation grade.
4. Leaving class without prior permission from the instructor will not be permitted, especially after quizzes given at the beginning of the class period. Walking in and out of class on your own schedule is a disturbance to others.
5. There will be no make-ups for exams or quizzes missed due to unexcused absences. If an absence is excused, prior notification is required. Do not assume that a make-up will be given if you miss class. Make-ups are rare and given only in extreme circumstances. Documentation such as a doctor's note or police report will be required. Do not schedule anything that conflicts with the exams. You are required to sit the exams during the scheduled time. Exams I and II are tentatively scheduled for March 15 and May10.
6. Eating in class is not permitted.
7. Cell phones, pagers and any other electronic devices should be turned off prior to class sessions. This includes text messaging. "Off" means "off," not vibrate. Laptop computers are an exception if used for class notes.
8. Excessive talking in class is disruptive to other students and the instructor. You are permitted to sit anywhere in the class that you wish unless your behavior becomes a disturbance. If you cannot resist talking to your classmates in class, you will be assigned a seat apart from one another. All questions related to the course material during class should be directed to the instructor.
9. There are no extra credit assignments in lieu of failing exams or quizzes.
10. The last day to withdraw from the course is ***Friday, February 10th***. After that date, withdrawals are not permitted.
11. The instructor is committed to upholding the university's policy regarding academic dishonesty. See the university catalogue, Appendix C, Academic Dishonesty.

Tentative Course Outline

1. **Introduction to Ancient Philosophy**
Mythos to Logos, The rise of science and philosophy

 Required Reading:
A New History of Philosophy, Chapter 1

2. **The Pre-Socratics**

The doctrines of substance, form, process and permanence

Required Reading:

A New History of Philosophy, Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5

Ancient Philosophy, pp. 1-30.

3. **Thucydides and the Peloponnesian War**

The Golden Age of Athens, Democracy and the Peloponnesian War

Required Reading:

Ancient Philosophy-- Pericles, *Funeral Oration*, p. 52

Thucydides, *The Melian Conference*, p. 56

4. **Socrates vs. the Sophists**

Absolutism vs. Relativism, Dialectic vs. Rhetoric

Required Reading:

A New History of Philosophy, Chapters 9, 10

Ancient Philosophy—Three Sophists, pp. 43-48;

Plato's *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, *Crito*, *Phaedo*, *Meno*

EXAM 1 March 15

5. **Plato**

The Theory of Forms, Mathematics, The Ideal State

Required Reading:

A New History of Philosophy, Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14

Ancient Philosophy--Plato's *Symposium*, *Republic*, *Theaetetus*

Recommended Reading:

Reflections on Philosophy, Ch. 3

6. **Aristotle**

The Theory of Substance, Change, Potential and Actual, Natural Science

Required Reading:

A New History of Philosophy, Chapters 15, 16, 17

Ancient Philosophy--Aristotle's *Categories*, *Physics*, *Metaphysics*,

Recommended Reading:

Reflections on Philosophy, Ch.3

EXAM II May 10